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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/913,157
Applicant : Katsumi TSUKAMOTO et al.
Filed : August 10, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2686
Examiner : J. Contee

Docket No. : 1137-827
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 3642

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

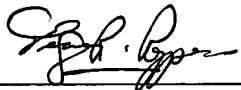
Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application. Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Accordingly, Applicant petitions the Commissioner to consider this information disclosure statement.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135. An additional copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.

By 
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/913,157
Filing Date	August 10, 2001
First Named Inventor	Katsumi TSUKAMOTO et al.
Group Art Unit	2686
Examiner Name	J. Contee

Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1137-827
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T ⁶
		Office ³ Code	Number ⁴	Kind ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	06-013959		HITACHI LTD.	01-21-1994	AB

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.